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To the Top of the Continent. Discovery, Exploration, and Adventure in Sub-arctic Alaska. The First Ascent of Mt. McKinley, 1903-1906. By Frederick A. Cook. xxi and 321 pp., many Photographs, Frontispiece in Colour, Drawings and Maps. Doubleday, Page & Company, New York, 1908. (Price, \$2.50.)

To have reached the top of the culminating summit of North America was work enough for a single season. In fact, Dr. Cook gave two summers to his attempts on Mt. McKinley, and he needed the experiences and the defeats of 1903 to win the triumph he achieved in the campaign of 1906.

It is not surprising that the story of both these notable expeditions fills a volume that is not small. Many hundreds of miles were traversed with pack animals and boats to reach and to return from the stupendous mountain. Many advances and retreats marked the laborious efforts to find the route by which, at last, Dr. Cook and Mr. Barrille were able, with continued exertion spread over many days, to attain the summit of the highest peak of the continent. The days and months were filled with striking incidents, and the whole story of untiring effort, discouragement, repeated defeat, and final victory was worth presenting to the public in the handsome volume the publishers have made of it.

The photographs are a remarkable feature of the volume and especially notable for the fact that they include a series of pictures illustrating the various stages of the ascent to the very top of the mountain. The coloured frontispiece of Mt. McKinley is from a painting by Mr. Russell W. Porter, whose efficiency in field surveying has resulted in a topographic map of the McKinley region. The volume is enriched by four appendices: (1) A Sketch of the Geology of the Mt. McKinley Region, by Mr. Alfred H. Brooks; (2) Biological Data and Specimens collected by Mr. Charles Sheldon and described by Mr. Wilfred H. Osgood; (3) The Cook Inlet Aborigines by Mr. Sheldon; and (4) a reprint of Mr. Brooks's well-known paper on Railroad Routes in Alaska. Unfortunately the work has no index.

India-Rubber and its Manufacture. With Chapters on Gutta-Percha and Balata. By Hubert L. Terry. viii and 294 pp., 18 Illustrations, Bibliography, and Index. D. Van Nostrand Company, New York, 1907. (Price, \$2.)

India rubber has become an almost indispensable commodity, and this circumstance has stimulated the interest of the public in its natural history and its manufacture. This volume is not a handbook for those engaged in the rubber trade. Its purpose is to supply to the general and the critical reader the latest information relating to the whole subject of India rubber. Mr. Terry has admirably carried out his design, and the fact that the story of rubber and its uses is of unusual interest has enhanced the readable quality of the book.

The author tells of the discovery of India rubber's characteristics and usefulness, describes its production, explains its chemical and physical properties, and deals with vulcanization and other processes. The chapter on India rubber plantations show how widely and successfully American rubber plants, especially Pará, and Castilloa have been introduced into Asia. There are chapters on "India rubber substitutes," "reclaimed rubber," "the washing of crude rubber," "the compounding of India rubber," "India rubber solvents," "gutta percha," "balata," and a series of chapters on the production of all kinds of rubber goods. The work is more comprehensive than any other in English on this subject.